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AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

This amendment and reply is filed in response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2003 (PTO Paper No. 11). The due date for reply, with no extensions of time, is December 25, 2003. However, December 25, 2003 and December 26, 2003 are Federal Holidays and the Patent Office is closed. Therefore the amendment and reply is timely filed the next business day, Monday, December 29, 2003.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of the paper.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.